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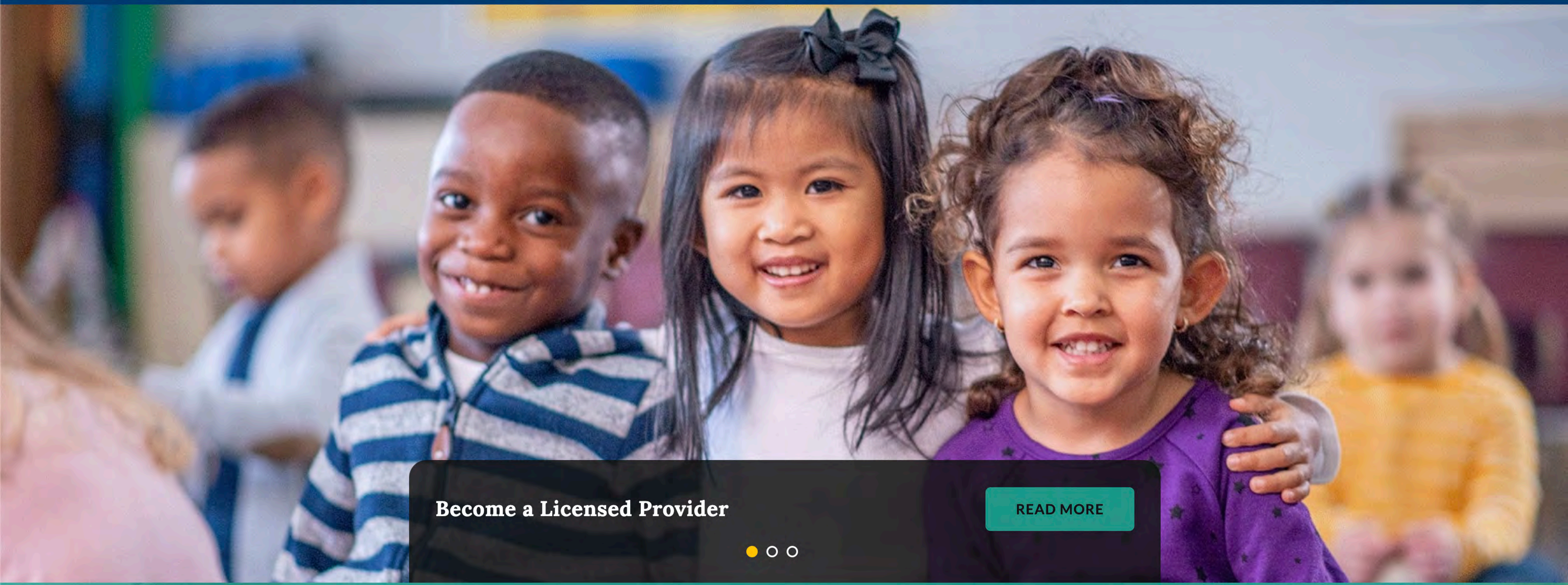
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FIND CARE

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TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

FIND CHILD CARE

HELP PAYING FOR CARE

FILE A COMPLAINT

Why Quality Child Care Matters

High quality child care programs feature enriched experiences that are linked to greater achievement and success in school and in life.

[LEARN MORE](#)

MAILING ADDRESS

Office of Child Care Health and Safety
Virginia Department of Education
PO Box 2120
Richmond, VA 23218

CONTACT & LINKS

Toll Free [833-778-0204](tel:833-778-0204)
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CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING OPTIONS

FINDING CHILD CARE

+ PAYING FOR CHILD CARE

ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

WHY QUALITY MATTERS

BENEFITS OF LICENSED CHILD CARE

CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

HEALTH AND SAFETY

FILE A COMPLAINT

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

Families

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Education Begins at Birth

From the time a child is born, he or she is learning and taking in valuable lessons from the environment. In the early years, the child typically learns from parents, family members and other engaged caregivers. From birth to age five, children are exposed to the skills necessary to begin school ready to learn in the classroom. The goal for preschool-aged children is for them to be ready to enter kindergarten. Virginia provides resources to help families, caregivers and communities prepare them for successful entry into kindergarten.

Use the topics below to find information about programs and services for children from birth to age five or use the menu of topics on the right. Both lead to information helpful for understanding how to support Virginia's children for kindergarten success and beyond.

Information on these pages also includes resources and strategies for early childhood professionals to help provide Virginia's early learners with high-quality education and experiences. Families may also find these resources helpful.

Ready for Success

School Readiness - acquiring skills for kindergarten

School readiness describes the capabilities of children, families, schools and communities that promote student success in kindergarten and beyond. All four components play an essential role in developing school readiness.

"The investments we make in our children today will have long-term returns for their lives and the strength of Virginia's economy," Virginia Governor Ralph Northam.

More about [School Readiness](#)



High-Quality Preschool

Preparing children for kindergarten and beyond

Virginia public schools operate certified preschools programs. Virginia also certifies preschool programs operated by accredited private schools. Use this site to find accredited preschools.

In addition, Virginia is working to improve quality and expand access to preschool programs for at-risk, low-income and special-needs children.

More about [Preschool Programs](#)

You may also be interested in the [curriculum, tools and strategies used by preschool teachers](#)



Children with Disabilities

Meeting each child's unique learning needs

Children with special needs who have experienced support early in life do better in future settings. Programs are available in all Virginia localities for children with disabilities or developmental delays, including:

- Early Intervention - birth-age 2,
- Children ages 2-5, and
- Children as they transition into preschool and on to kindergarten.

More about [Special Education and Early Intervention](#)

Quality Child Care

Parents' guide to finding safe, quality child care

The [Child Care VA](#) provides information on a variety of child care areas including licensing, laws and regulations, and child care options and guidance. Child care programs and services for Virginia families are offered through the [Virginia Department of Social Services](#).



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